

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 PPTE-00 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00

EB-11 FAA-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 RSR-01 /130 W

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O 171434Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1352

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON UK

UNCLASSIFIED HAMILTON 279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, PINT, BD

SUBJ: BERMUDA'S LABOR UNION CALLS GENERAL STRIKE

1. THE BERMUDA INDUSTRIAL UNION (BIU) ACTUALLY AN AMALGAMATION OF UNIONS (DIVISIONS) CALLED A 4 DAY STRIKE EFFECTIVE MIDNIGHT AUGUST 16.
2. STRIKE WAS CALLED AFTER BIU THREATENED TO STRIKE IF GOB PASSED LEGISLATION REGULATING AND REGULARIZING AGENCY SHOP. GOB PASSED LEGISLATION AUGUST 15 AND BIU STRUCK.
3. STRIKE IF EFFECTIVE COULD SLOW DOWN OR CLOSE ALL

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SERVICE EXCEPT THOSE DESIGNATED "ESSENTIAL" IN BERMUDA'S 1965 LABOR ACT-ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE ELECTRICITY, GAS, FIRE, HEALTH, SANITARY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND WATER.

4. AIRLINES ESTIMATE THERE 8,000 TOURISTS HERE WHO CAME VIA AIR AND THAT THE AIRLINES CAN LIFT THOSE PEOPLE OUT UTILIZING THERE REGULAR SCHEDULED AIR LIFT CAPACITY.

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5. IRONICALLY BERMUDA AIR SERVICES (BAS) WHICH PROVIDES

CATERING SERVICES FOR OUTBOUND AIR AND IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING NEW CONTRACT WITH BIU, BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OF STRIKE AFFECT ON BAS HAS CEASED CATERING OPERATIONS AND LAID OFF WORKERS. (SEE HAMILTON 267).

6. ALL SERVICES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED PARA 3 COULD BE AFFECTED. JAMMED HOTELS MAY CEASE OR SEVERELY CURTAIL FOOD SERVICES IF HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS STAY AWAY. BUS AND FERRY SERVICES HAVE CEASED. AT LEAST TWO FREIGHTERS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AUG 18 MAY BYPASS BERMUDA AND OFF LOAD MIAMI.

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SHIPPERSESTIMATE AN ADDITIONAL FREIGHT CHARGE OF \$250,000 TO \$400,000 IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN.

7. WHILE FOUR DAYS WILL NOT SERIOUSLY DISRUPT TOURIST TRADE HERE IT COULD CANCEL PLANS FOR THOSE ARRIVING OVER NEXT FOUR DAYS. TRAVERLERS MAY BE UNEASY ABOUT COMING BERMUDA SOON (PEAK IS LABOR DAY) IN VIEW REPORTED "LABOR UNREST".

8. IF BIU STRIKE SUCCESSFUL IT WILL HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO GOB THAT UNION CAN TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ESPECIALLY IN LABOR FIELD. IF UNION DOES NOT KEEP RANK AND FILE OUT OR STRIKE ACTION IS SPOTTY GOB WILL HAVE EVIDENCE THAT IT IS ABLE TO LEGISLATE MORE STRINGENT CONTROL ON LABOR IN FUTURE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973HAMILT00279  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BERMUDA'S LABOR UNION CALLS GENERAL STRIKE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, ETRN, PINT, BD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005